



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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***Tuesday
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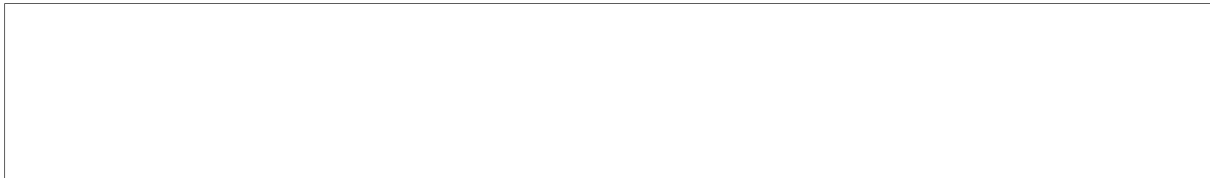
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INTERNATIONAL: UN Conference on Least Developed Nations

The UN Conference on Least Developed Nations, which begins today in Paris, probably will involve hard bargaining between the US and developing nations. Both sides realize, however, that a stalemate could help to sour the atmosphere at the Cancun summit in October.

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The two-week conference is intended to discuss the special development needs of the world's poorest countries and appropriate types of development assistance. The Group of 77, however, is likely to make exaggerated and unrealistic demands on the industrialized states, including quadrupling all development assistance by 1990. It probably will also attempt to turn the technical and consultative sessions into a pledging conference.

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France--the conference's host--and some industrialized nations do not wish to appear unsympathetic to the plight of the least developed countries. They are likely to pay lipservice to the program of the Group of 77.

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The conference is the last major international meeting on North-South economic relations before the Cancun summit and will set the stage for it. Relations between the US and developing countries have already been strained this year by differences at the UN Law of the Sea Conference and the recent conference on energy in Nairobi, and over the proposed UN-sponsored North-South negotiations in New York.

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IRAN: Aftermath of Bombing

Ayatollah Khomeini yesterday promised to fill the offices made vacant by the bombing on Sunday by holding presidential elections and having a new prime minister appointed. Some Iranians undoubtedly believe the bombing in June of the Islamic Republic Party's headquarters that killed 74 and the latest attack could not have been carried out without help from inside the party. Assembly Speaker Rafsanjani, who has seemed defensive in explaining his absences from both meetings at which the bombings took place, probably will be suspected. At a minimum these suspicions raise the level of distrust as party leaders seek to fill the vacated positions. [REDACTED]

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Although the Mujahedin has not claimed responsibility, most Iranians probably believe it carried out the bombings. The regime will increase its attacks on all opposition groups, but does not have the capability to root out disciplined opponents. [REDACTED]

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EGYPT - EAST ASIA: Foreign Minister's Visit

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ali today begins an 18-day trip to China, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, and North Korea. He may seek additional arms purchases from China--Egypt's largest arms supplier after the US--and North Korea. In Japan, Ali will lay the groundwork for President Sadat's visit, scheduled for November. [REDACTED]

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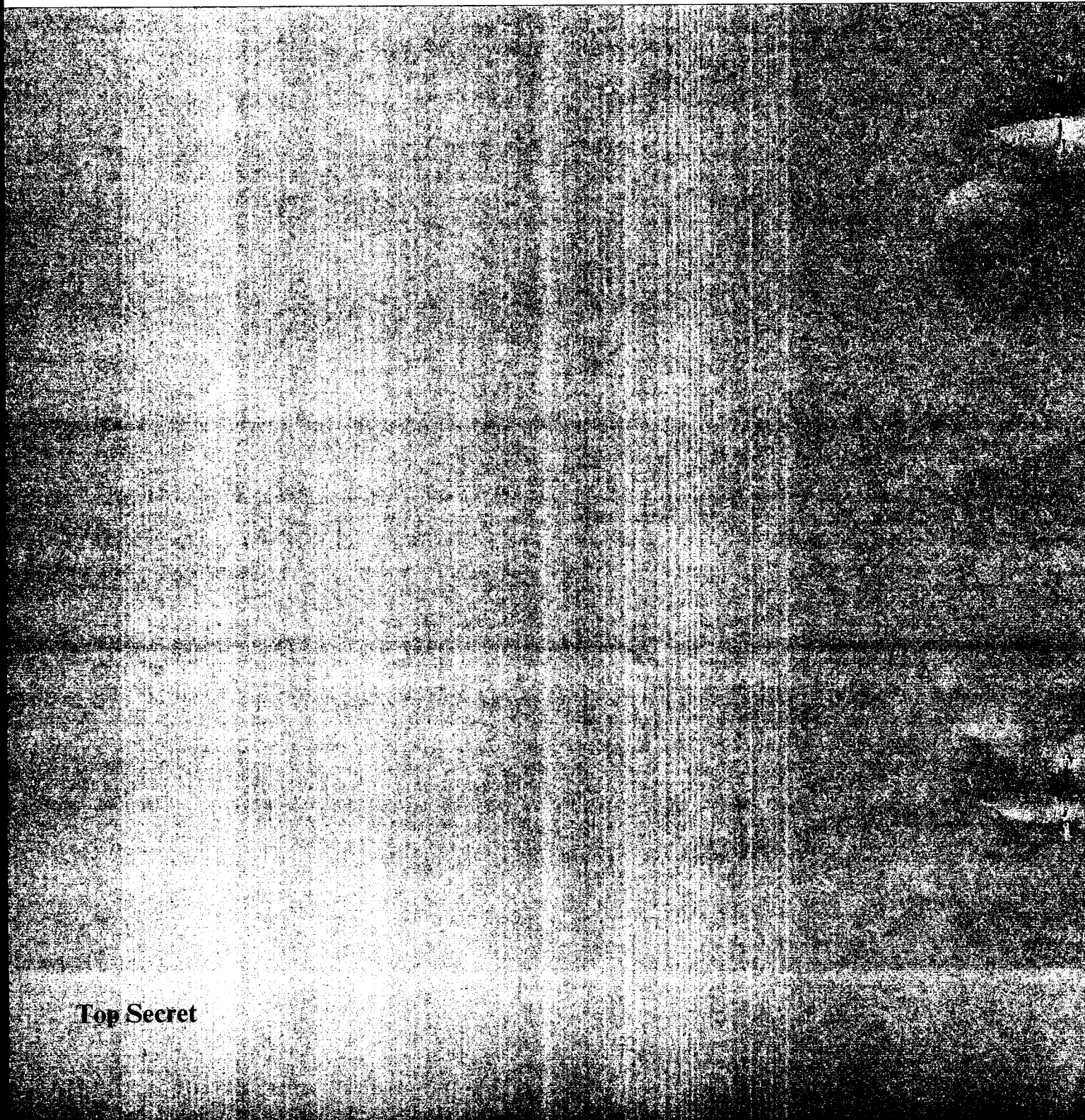
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